



Supporting Schools and their Partners
So Every Child Can Thrive.

ASES Daily Rate Survey – February 2015

Background:

While the costs, demands, and expectations of expanded learning (after school and summer) programs have been consistently increasing since the passage of Proposition 49, the funding has remained stagnant. Specifically, since 2006 the California consumer performance index (CPI) has increased by more than 17%, the state minimum wage was raised to \$9/hour, and will soon be increased to \$10. Over the same time period, the After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) daily rate of \$7.50 per student has not increased and there is no legal authority for a cost of living adjustment.

Survey:

The Partnership for Children & Youth, with the help of partner organizations and regional networks, distributed a short online survey to expanded learning programs across the state to gain insight on the impact of the current ASES daily rate. In only two weeks, **588** respondents completed the survey and 76% (450) also took the additional time to fill out descriptive responses directly speaking to the impacts in their community. The survey respondents represented more than 300 school districts.

Results:

- 95% of respondents receive ASES funding. 89% of ASES-funded programs surveyed have been negatively impacted by the ASES funding formula of \$7.50 per day/per student.
- More than 75% of ASES-funded programs have found it is more difficult to retain high quality staff (unable to offer competitive pay) and more difficult to attract and recruit quality staff (unable to offer competitive pay).
- 75% of ASES-funded programs also believe it is necessary to reduce the number of enrichment activities offered to children.
- More than 60% of programs also cite a reduction in professional development for staff, an inability to meet the demand of students on waiting lists, and a negative impact on the ability to provide quality academic supports to students.
- Approximately 50% of respondents have had to reduce staff hours.
- Nearly 25% of programs are now serving fewer kids.

Why this matters:

- The current ASES funding policy is negatively impacting the students and families that depend on these programs for vital educational services to level the playing field. On average, schools with ASES grants have more than 75% of students eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals. So unlike the private sector, increases in costs cannot be passed on to our customers – given our customers are low-income families.

- There is a high-level of unmet need for ASES programs that will be further exacerbated without changes to the daily rate. Nearly 2,500 low-income schools that qualify for programs still do not receive ASES funding due to funding limits.
- With 84% of ASES-funded programs struggling to attract, recruit, and retain quality staff as a direct consequence of the stagnant ASES daily rate, newly enacted quality standards will be challenging to implement.¹ Quality is central to the ability of programs to make positive gains in student educational and well-being outcomes.
- Increasing wages and benefits – a policy the field wholeheartedly supports - was intended to close equity gaps but the survey demonstrated that there may be unintended consequences in the reduction of hours and benefits. Both the ASES program and increases to the minimum wage are responsibilities of the State Legislature – we must ensure that the same populations these policies seek to support do not shoulder the inadvertent consequences.
- The high and consistent survey response rate in such a short period of time demonstrates the **urgency** of this issue across all regions and levels of programs, and most importantly the immediate need for action.

Take Action:

- Get involved in the statewide campaign NOW to increase the ASES daily rate by signing up [here](#) for regular updates on legislative and budget efforts and opportunities to take action.
- Track and support [Senate Bill 645](#) authored by Senator Loni Hancock which seeks to increase the ASES to daily rate to \$8.50 over two years and put in a permanent cost of living increase for these programs.
- Send the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees your letters of support to increase the daily rate.
- Sign-up [here](#) to participate in CalSAC's Advocacy day at the Capitol on May 11 and 12.

For more information on the survey results and/or related policy efforts, please contact Jessica Gunderson, Policy Director, Partnership for Children & Youth at jessica@partnerforchildren.org.

¹ The California Department of Education After School Division approved [Quality Standards](#) for Expanded Learning Programs.